WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for configuring wireless devices for forming an ad hoc wireless network, comprising:

prompting a user, through a user interface of an initiating computer, to create network settings for the ad hoc wireless network;

collecting network settings for the ad hoc wireless network;

generating an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file including the network settings for the ad hoc wireless network;

writing the XML file to a portable media device connected to the initiating computer; and

instructing the user, through the user interface, to remove the portable media device from the initiating computer and to connect the portable media device to a peer computing device for configuring the peer computing device for joining the ad hoc wireless network.

2.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the step of collecting network settings includes generating, by the initiating computer, default values for selected network settings.

3.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 2, wherein the step of generating default values includes invoking an application program interface (API) of an operating system of the initiating computer to generate the default values for the selected network settings.

4.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 2, wherein the step of collecting network settings includes generating a security key for the ad hoc wireless network.

5.   A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the step collecting network settings includes receiving network setting data entered by the user.

6. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive.

7. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card.

8. A computer-readable medium as in claim 1, having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps of:

detecting reconnection of the portable media device to the initiating computer; and

retrieving by the initiating computer configuration data written by the peer computing device into the portable media device in connection with configuring the peer computing device for joining the ad hoc wireless network.

9. A portable media device for provisioning a computing device with network settings, the portable media device having stored thereon data comprising:

an XML file containing network settings for setting up the computing device to join an ad hoc wireless network when the portable media device is connected to the computing device.

10. A portable media device as in claim 9, wherein the data stored on the portable media device further include an autorun file for prompting the computing device to automatically apply the network settings configuration.

11. A portable media device as in claim 9, wherein the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive.

12. A portable media device as in claim 9, where the portable media device is a flash memory card.

13. A portable media device as in claim 9, wherein the network settings include a network name and a network security key for the ad hoc wireless network.

14. A portable media device as in claim 9, further comprising a network configuration application to be executed for configuring the computing device when the portable media device is connected to the computing device.

15. A method of provisioning a wireless computing device with network settings for joining an ad hoc wireless network, comprising:

determining network settings for the ad hoc wireless network, the network settings including a network name and a network security key for the ad hoc wireless network;

generating an Extensible Markup Language (XML) file including the network settings for the ad hoc wireless network; and

writing the XML file to a portable media device, wherein the steps of determining, generating, and writing are performed on an initiating computer of the ad hoc wireless network.

16. A method as in claim 15, further including the steps of:

connecting the portable media device to the computing device to be provisioned; and

executing a configuration program on the computing device to automatically configure the computing device using the network settings in the XML file on the portable media device.

17. A method as in claim 15, wherein the step of determining includes generating by the initiating computer a network security key for the ad hoc wireless network.

18. A method as in claim 15, wherein the step of determining includes prompting a user to enter a network security key for the ad hoc wireless network.

19. A method as in claim 15, wherein the step of determining includes invoking an application program interface (API) of an operating system of the initiating computer to provide the network settings.

20. A method as in claim 15, wherein the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive.

21. A method as in claim 15, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card.

22. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps for configuring a computing device for joining an ad hoc wireless network, comprising:

detecting installation of a portable media device on the computing device, the portable media device containing network settings for the ad hoc wireless network; and

automatically configuring the computing device for joining the ad hoc wireless network using the network settings contained in the portable media device.

23. A computer-readable medium as in claim 22, wherein the step of automatically configuring includes recognizing that the portable media device contains network settings, and invoking a configuration program to implement the network settings in the computing device.

24. A computer-readable medium as in claim 22, having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step of writing network settings configured on the computing device into the portable media device.

25. A computer-readable medium as in claim 22, wherein the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive.

26. A computer-readable medium as in claim 22, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card.

27. A method of configuring a computing device for joining an ad hoc wireless network, comprising:

detecting installation of a portable media device on the computing device, the portable media device containing network settings for the ad hoc wireless network; and

automatically configuring the computing device for joining the ad hoc wireless network using the network settings contained in the portable media device.

28.   A method as in claim 27, wherein the step of automatically configuring includes recognizing that the portable media device contains network settings, and invoking a configuration program to implement the network settings in the computing device.

29.   A method as in claim 27, further including the step of writing network settings configured on the computing device into the portable media device.

30.   A method as in claim 27, wherein the portable media device is a universal serial bus (USB) flash drive.

31.   A method as in claim 27, wherein the portable media device is a flash memory card.